(b) if so, whether Government have had any talk with the Nepal Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of people of Indian origin living in Nepal are making an exodus to Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check these anti-India activities going on in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been incidents of extortion and intimidation in Nepal, which have also affected some Indian business enterprises, joint ventures and people of Indian origin in Nepal.

(b) to (d) Cases involving the safety and security of people of Indian origin in Nepal, including Indian business enterprises and joint ventures have been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Nepal, including at the highest levels. The Government of Nepal has been requested to investigate these cases and provide adequate security and safety to all Indians, whose welfare and security is of prime concern to the Government of India.

There are no reports to suggest that a large number of people of Indian origin living in Nepal are making an exodus to Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Problems of Bhutanese Refugees

†2524. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhutanese refugees are frequently trying to go back to Bhutan by crossing the border of India;

(b) whether Government are considering to solve this problem by mediating between Bhutan and Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There are no reports to suggest that Bhutanese Refugees are frequently trying to cross the border of India. Government are, however, aware of a recent incident where Bhutanese Refugees attempted to cross the Indian border during May, 28-30, 2007 at Mechi Bridge. This issue has been under discussion between the governments of Nepal and Bhutan, both of which are friendly neighbours of India. Government are working with all concerned in order to deal with what is primarily a humanitarian issue, to minimise the adverse consequences for the people involved.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.